## APPENDIX D.

### The Dewan's Concluding Remarks.

*27th October 1923.*

GENTLEMEN,

During the present Session we have been very much hard pressed for time. The business to be got through consisted of 181 General Subjects, 100 Local Subjects and 18 Supplemental Subjects. We have been able to dispose of only 125 General Subjects, 66 Local and 17 Supplemental Subjects. Unfortunately, we have to lose a day owing to the University Convocation, and the last day of the session could not be devoted entirely to the ordinary business as, before the dissolution of this Assembly, I have to make the important pronouncement regarding the constitutional changes. There have, however, been many interesting discussions on matters of outstanding importance to the general welfare of the State, and as usual, the members of this Assembly have shown their customary spirit of moderation and good sense in dealing with the propositions which they put forward.

As you must all be anxious to listen to the declaration of Government on the subject of the Reforms, I do not propose to detain you, at the close of this Session, with any lengthy remarks, specially as I have indicated already, as far as possible, the views of Government on all the important questions that have been discussed. To supplement these views I need refer only to a few of the most important subjects.

It is gratifying to see that there is a keen desire for Village Improvement works being placed on a more satisfactory footing, and the defects brought to notice in regard to the payment of bills for incomplete works under a dual responsibility will have to be carefully examined in view of the general policy of Government to hand over all such works to local bodies. The matter will be taken up by the Special Officer immediately and necessary rules for the guidance of local bodies as well as the Revenue officers will be framed to see that the allotment sanctioned in the Budget of the current year is fully and profitably utilised.

Certain matters relating to the disabilities which the Inamdars labour under, in regard to the removal of their forest produce including tangadi bark, have been discussed and these will be dealt with in the final order that the Government hope to issue at an early date on the report of the Inam Commission.

The question of sharing with Municipalities the revenue from toddy and arrack shops has been previously considered, and I regret I cannot agree with the claim put forward by the Municipalities in this matter. Excise revenue is not an income from local resources, and whatever may be the reason for the system of surcharge prevailing in respect of this revenue in the Bangalore and Mysore City Municipalities—this I have no objection to extend to the other Town Municipalities—it is not possible to

apportion any fraction of the total income from Excise to the Municipalities on any reasonable grounds.

Some of the members, in speaking on the subject of the administration of the Income-tax have made complaints regarding the method of assessment, hearing of appeals, examination of accounts and other matters. It has already been explained that Government are trying to minimise the hardships caused and have framed definite rules to afford all the necessary facilities for the smooth working of the Regulation. The question of extending the time for presenting appeals will be examined. As regards delays that take place in conducting enquiries and examining accounts, I have already indicated the decision of Government to request the Income-tax Commissioner to proceed to a few districts and make typical inspections with a view to remedy the existing defects in this respect.

In regard to the administration of Civil Justice, complaints were made as regards the system of waiting lists as also suggestions regarding the extension of the jury system, further additional facilities to remove congestion in Civil Courts and other matters. These recommendations will be referred to the Chief Court for their careful consideration. The proposals made for making certain changes in procedure in regard to criminal trials in respect of granting the first information report and other records to the accused after he has been placed before a Magistrate will also be referred to the Chief Court for opinion.

Malnad questions have, as usual, taken a large part of the time of the Assembly, and as already stated, they are now under close examination, and I hope shortly to announance the policy of Government in regard to the general question of malnad improvement which will embrace within its purview, Public Health and Sanitation, Communications, Educational Facilities, Research, and Indebtedness.

Educational subjects could not all be taken up for want of time, but many interesting discussions have taken place as usual on some of the burning topics of the day. Under University Education, various suggestions have been put forward for further development, but in these matters, the Special Committee of the Senate which has been sitting for some time, proposes to make certain recommendations to Government, and on receipt of its report, necessary orders will be passed. As indicated by me in another connection, the total expenditure that may be sanctioned for University Education will largely depend on our general financial policy; but the two pressing questions that at present need solution are (1) the examination of the Entrance Collegiate course in view of its being substituted by Intermediate College, and (2) the opening of vocational courses in the University.

With reference to the request to reduce High School fees, I have already stated that in view of the existing sanctioned percentage of freeships enjoyed by students in the High Schools, the large expenditure involved in developing the existing schools and opening new High Schools throughout the State, and the great increase in the cost of High School education within recent years, there appears to be no justification for the very low scale of fees now in vogue, which was prescribed over 16 years ago and compares very favourably with those in British India and other Indian States, being further reduced.

Government are in full sympathy with the keen desire expressed by many members for larger extension of primary education in rural areas. With the aid of the education cess as well as the larger grants that are now being given, it will be possible to carry out more fully the policy laid down in the orders on the Education Memorandum. It is not practicable, without the financial aid which was indicated as available in the orders referred to, to convert with any appreciable rate of progress the large number of aided schools into Government schools. It has been decided that, as it will take a long time to effect this wholesale conversion, during the transition period, aided schools should be given additional encouragement by way of supplemental grants; for, I have noticed that it is the work mainly of all the aided school masters to persuade the villagers to close schools with a view to secure for the masters themselves the rate of the scale of pay sanctioned for Government teachers. Considerable progress is being made in the current year for the remodelling of the primary and middle school education and placing also secondary education on a satisfactory footing. The State now spends about Rs. 17 lakhs on primary education, which is nearly 7 lakhs more than the corresponding figure six years ago. Unless the whole question of primary education finance is dealt with in the manner indicated in the orders on the Education Memorandum, it is impossible for the State to undertake the whole burden of primary education. But at the same time, it is necessary, in view of the fact that the levy of the education cess will be sanctioned in most districts, that suitable additional facilities are provided for the development of primary education. The problems are extremely difficult from the financial point of view, and in working out the new Local Self-Government Scheme, they will be gone into in detail and final decisions arrived at an early date.

The question of freeships and the allotment of seats to students in High Schools and Colleges also came in for a lot of criticism. I fear that the proposal to appoint a Committee, on which members of all the major communities should be represented, to deal with such matters is out of the question. At present, from the statistics available, it appears that the educational authorities responsible have been distributing these facilities for education as best and as evenly as they can under the circumstances; and if any member of this Assembly can, without making allegations of a general character, furnish Government with a statement showing any cases of inequality, hardship or injustice I shall see that the cases are examined fully and necessary instructions issued. But I would deprecate the tendency that is sometimes displayed in dealing with these matters to give them a communal turn. It is the intention of His Highness' Government to encourage and afford facilities, as far as possible, to all classes to enable them to avail themselves of the State educational institutions; and in addition to this, special inducements are being offered to the backward communities to come forward in large numbers. It is not correct to demand curtailment in one direction with a view to secure additions in another. The policy now pursued is a sound and just one, and any further advance in the same policy is merely a question of funds.

I do not propose to deal with any of the Local Subjects in regard to which my answers have already been

given. I may, however, refer to a few of the important supplementary subjects.

Government are aware that the seasonal conditions are causing the people much anxiety. Government have been closely watching them, and have already taken measures to relieve the situation wherever it has been reported to have reached an acute stage. I shall see that definite instructions are issued to the Deputy Commissioners to visit all parts of their districts where, owing to adverse conditions, special measures of relief are necessary, and Government will be quite prepared to sanction all reasonable proposals in this respect.

Remission rules have only recently been promulgated and the present year's conditions will give a good opportunity for testing their suitability. Besides, there is nothing to prevent Government sanctioning special measures to meet special situations. No change, therefore, is called for just now in regard to these rules.

The representation made about the Irrigation Cess and Cow-killing will be duly noted.

I have already given a detailed reply about the autonomy of Local Boards regarding the management of their local affairs, and I repeat that Government will be quite perpared to give the fullest possible jurisdiction to the District Boards over the administration of local affairs and greater freedom over their Budget. All the questions connected with Local Board Finance will be gone into carefully in connection with the enquiry that is being conducted, and after consulting the District Boards, new rules will be passed. In the meantime, I appeal for cooperation with Government during this period of transition and financial stress.

I have already stated that on the eve of the announcement of His Highness' decision representations in regard to constitutional questions decided would seem to be inappropriate, specially as the Representative Assembly had ample opprotunities, of expressing their views during the last Session of the Assembly, and their representations were duly submitted to His Highness and considered by His Highness' Government.

The question of procedure suggested under item (3) of supplemental Subject No. 17 will be referred to the new Assembly.

Gentlemen, this will be the last meeting of the Assembly under its old constitution, and it will be dissolved as soon as I have made the pronouncement in regard to the Constitutional Reforms. You will, no doubt, immediately on return study the details of the new constitution, and I trust that with the knowledge and experience that you have already gained through membership of this unique institution, you will be able to educate the public mind, to enable the people at large to avail themselves more largely of the extended franchise that has now been granted as well as the additional powers and privileges with which this Assembly will in future be invested.

With these words, I wish you farewell and hope to see many of you back as members of this Assembly when we meet next at its inaugural meeting early next year.

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